

August 1974. The second I disturbed from rough ground near Beaulieu Road Station, New Forest, Hampshire in the late afternoon on 19th September 1980.

Bretherton in a review of British records of *D. ramburialis* (*Ent. Rec.* 74: 1-8) lists five specimens found or disturbed by day between 1858 and 1902, states that the species was not recorded between 1903 and 1944 and that between 1945 and 1961 although over thirty specimens were recorded none was found by day. Apart from my specimens I do not know if the species has been found by day since. — R. J. HECKFORD 67, Newnham Road, Plympton, Plymouth.

LYCIA LAPPONARIA SCOTICA (HARRISON) : A BRIEF NOTE ON PAIRING IN CAPTIVITY — I bred a few specimens of the Rannoch brindled beauty from a female collected at Struan, Perthshire during April 1983. These moths emerged during the afternoon in late March, 1984 in a sun lounge, under fairly normal temperature conditions. At about 1700 hrs. a male became active and flew wildly about the room. I boxed the moth and placed it near a female which had earlier extended its ovipositor by some 10mm. The male immediately ran over the female's back, and pairing occurred. The moths remained together until about 2200 hrs.

I have never observed *lapponaria* on the wing during many searches of the posts and birch trunks in the afternoon at Struan, or ever found moths paired during daylight hours. I would welcome any further observations readers may have made. J. PLATTS 11 Maydowns Road, Whitstable, Kent.

A FEW NOTABLE 'MICROS' AT LIGHT IN S. E. LONDON. — Though they include nothing really rare, the following are species which I had not previously seen here or elsewhere, and which seem unexpected in a more-or-less built-up suburb. Single specimens came to my m.v. lamp at Charlton (1976, 1986). For determinations I am grateful to Messrs. E. C. Pelham-Clinton, A. M. Emmet, and J. M. Chalmers-Hunt.

Bactra robustana Chr.: a fine example on 17.viii.86. (The genus is barely represented at all here.)

Eucosma tripoliana Barr.: 11.viii.86. There is no saltmarsh known to me within several miles; I have, however, taken occasional singletons of other such species here or at Blackheath (e.g. the last, and once *Bucculatrix maritima* Stt.).

Eucosma conterminana H.-S.: 4.vii.76. Bradley, Tremewan & Smith (1979) note this as "generally scarce and local"; of the 9 localities they list, Erith and Dartford are the nearest.

Teleiodes alburnella Zell.: 15.vii.76. A northern species which has spread southward in the last decade or so. There is a birch at

the end of the garden on which it may have bred, but perhaps this is rather unlikely since it has not so far recurred.

Ptocheuusa paupella Zell.: 3.vii.76. If it bred locally, it must have been on one of the less usual foodplants, *Centaurea* or *Mentha*.

Caloptilia populetorum Zell.: 17.viii.86. Evidently a rarity here.

In passing I would mention that *Epiphyas postvittana* Walk. is now well established in this district since I recorded the first Kent specimen in 1983, occurring freely in both broods, but hitherto always at light. — A. A. ALLEN.

FIRST RECORD OF A MELANIC *ANATIS OCELLATA* L. (COL.: COCCINELLIDAE). — For some time I have had in my collection an example of this well-known species, the 'Eyed Ladybird', with the data 'St. Plant, Bovey, S. Devon/7.5.55/L. H. Woollett', which is entirely pitch-black, without a trace of lighter areas on the elytra or elsewhere either above or below. I had paid it little attention until finding lately, to my surprise, that no such all-black form of *A. ocellata* appeared to be mentioned in either British or foreign works. This negative finding was verified by Mr. R. D. Pope who very kindly searched the collections and relevant literature at the BMNH. He points out that the nearest known approach to full melanism seems to be made by the ab. *friebe* Mader, in which a great extension of black or dark markings obliterates much (but by no means all) of the pale elytral ground-colour. That the blackness of the Devon specimen is no artefact caused by impregnation with grease is proved by its being quite unaltered after prolonged degreasing. — A. A. ALLEN.

EMPID VOLUCRIS WIED. (DIPT.) IN SURREY. — When collecting in Richmond Park on 7th July, 1986, in the company of Prof. J. A. Owen, I tubed two Empid flies out of my friend's net after he had been sweeping the lower branches of well-grown Scots pines along the edge of a plantation; the flies, both males, came off different trees. They were readily identified from Collin (1961, *British Flies* 6 (Empididae): 451, 544-5) as the above apparently rare and little-known species, whereof they clearly exhibit all the characters given. Collin (p. 545) records *Empis volucris* only from the New Forest and from Waterperry Wood on the Oxon./Bucks. border, mostly in July, and I have no note of any later capture. — A. A. ALLEN.

Current Literature

The natural history of butterflies by John Feltwell. 133pp. 24 figs. 20 colour photographs. Croom Helm 1986. £7.95 paperback, £12.95 boards.

At last a butterfly book with a difference! Written with the general naturalist in mind this book combines a wealth of information with an easy, narrative style.